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ABSTRACT

Unless there is a fundamental change in business practices and the education system, millions of American university and high school graduates will be unable to find challenging, well-paying work. The dilemma is that there are many well-qualified graduates and too few jobs. This book explores a number of critical issues for today's schools and tomorrow's work force: With too few decent job opportunities, how can education be an advantage? Is the whole push for greater numbers of "high-tech, high-skill" workers a fraud? To meet new standards of performance and expectations, high schools will need a complete metamorphosis. Chapter 1 discusses the causes of the jobs dilemma and analyzes projections of future workplace needs. Chapter 2 describes the consequences of the current economic trend. The Chapter 3 counters the charge that public education is to blame for economic downturn and drop in standard of living in the 1980s and 90s. Chapter 4 discusses whether job-expansion strategies are feasible, and chapter 5 argues that American corporations could afford to expand job opportunities if they wanted to. High-performance work organizations and their different approaches to employees are described in chapter 6. Chapter 7 asks whether the schools can provide the kind of high-tech, knowledge works an expanded job market will demand. Chapter 8 describes exemplary practices of high schools and colleges in preparing students for the job market. Chapter 9 calls for more sophisticated professional-development programs, with an emphasis on professional-development schools. Twenty tables and chapter endnotes are included. (LMI)

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